



DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



❖ NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS ❖

What is a national conservation area (NCA)?

An NCA is an area of public land designated by an act of Congress to conserve, protect, enhance and manage it for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. NCAs have unique and important features of national significance that qualify them for this special status. NCAs are part of the National Conservation Lands (also known as the National Landscape Conservation System), a larger system of BLM-managed public lands that also includes national monuments, wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, and national scenic and historic trails.

What's special about the Dominguez-Escalante (D-E) NCA?

The D-E NCA was established through the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, which designated the area for the conservation and protection of

the unique and important resources and values of the land, including the geological, cultural, archaeological, paleontological, natural, scientific, recreational, wilderness, wildlife, riparian, historical, educational, and scenic resources of the public land; and... the water resources of area streams, based on seasonally available flows, that are necessary to support aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial species and communities (Section 2402).

This 210,012-acre NCA, which includes the 66,000-acre Dominguez Canyon Wilderness, has abundant natural and cultural resources, beautiful scenery and a diversity of recreational opportunities.

How many national conservation areas are there?

The BLM's National Conservation Lands include 16 NCAs, comprising about 10 percent of all BLM lands. Besides D-E NCA, the BLM manages two other NCAs in Colorado: Gunnison Gorge and McInnis Canyons.

Why did the BLM write a draft RMP for the D-E NCA?

The Omnibus Act mandates that the BLM develop an RMP for the NCA. The publication of the draft RMP for the D-E NCA allows for public input into the management process and facilitates study and analysis of the potential impacts of different management alternatives on the NCA's resources and resource uses.

The draft RMP is available on compact disk and online through the D-E NCA's RMP website:

http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nca/denca/denca_rmp.html.